

**Indigenous Postsecondary Education Council (IPEC)
Western University**

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2020

The meeting was held at 9:00am – 12:30pm at University Community Centre (UCC) 147B

PRESENT:

Candace BRUNETTE
Regna DARNELL

Brent DEBASSIGE
Janice FORSYTH
Paula HEDGEPEETH
Tara HEDICAN
Riley KENNEDY
Ashley KEWAYOSH -

SAMUEL
Melanie MOLNAR
Amanda MYERS
Geoff READ
Peter SIMPSON
Amy WHITE

Guy WILLIAMS

AFFILIATION:

Special Advisor to the Provost, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
President's Appointee representing the Faculty of Social Science, Western University

Director, Indigenous Education, Faculty of Education, Western University
Director, Indigenous Studies, Faculty of Social Science, Western University
Project Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives, Western University
SAGE Coordinator (by Tele-conference), Western University
Student Senator, Western University

Program Coordinator, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University
Affiliate Designate, Brescia University College

Director, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University
Dean of Students, Huron University College

Associate Vice-Provost, School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS)
Language Immersion Coordinator, Walpole Island First Nation (PROXY by
Tele-Conference)

Special Advisor Indigenous Education & Development, Fanshawe College

REGRETS:

Danielle ALCOCK
Bernita BRIGHAM-
JACOBS

Joan FINEGAN
Myrna KICKNOSWAY
Jennie MASSEY
Rick MONTURE
Jody NOAH
Laura SPERO
Bette SUMMERS
Tehya QUACHEGAN

SOAHAC Representative, Community Organization

Post-Secondary Coordinator, Walpole Island First Nations

Interim Dean of Social Sciences, Western University

Visiting Elder, Indigenous Student Centre, Western University

Associate Vice President, Student Experience, Western University

Grand River Post-Secondary Education, Six Nations First Nation

Southern First Nations Secretariat, Community Organization

Post-Secondary Counsellor, Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Education Director, Oneida Nation of the Thames First Nation

Indigenous Student Association (ISA) President, Western University

1. Traditional Opening

- Amanda Myers shared some words
- Smudge provided

2. Approval of Agenda

University Co-chair Candace welcomed everyone.

Items added to or removed from agenda:

- Removed agenda item 10 – OII Communications Sub-Committee
- Removed agenda item 11 – Jeff Tennant Congress 2020 update
- Added agenda item 16 - Alternative Thesis Policy change – Peter Simpson

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved with the following changes:

- Spelling corrections of Ashley Kewayosh-Samuel, Regna Darnell, Jennie Massey
- Motioned by Amanda Myers to accept, seconded by Peter Simpson.

4. OII Updates – please see attachment

Candace Brunette-Debassige presented.

- Update on VP/AVP Indigenous Initiatives role
- Selection Committee includes a strong representation of Indigenous community
- Selection committee plans to start meeting in January.
- Office of Indigenous Initiatives submitted budget for 2020-21.
- Indigenous Learning Space (ILS) planning underway some delays.
- ILS will likely not be ready for Congress 2020.
- Land Acknowledgement document is a living document with a complicated history. It is open to revision and ongoing community input.
- Indigenous Communication Sub-Committee to release a survey to gather feedback on improving communications. The survey link will be distributed to all IPEC members and various Indigenous list serves.
- Indigenous Cluster Hire process underway 2 hires have – accepted
- Schulich’s newly appointed Indigenous Leader in Residence (ILIR) will be announced shortly. This position has a February 2020 start date.
- CONGRESS 2020 planning underway. Jeff Tennant the Convener can be reached at jtennant@uwo.ca to share ideas for Indigenous programming ideas, how to engage Indigenous communities. Some ideas being explored are: offering reduced fees to Indigenous students, free events to community member, and free transportation from local communities. Nothing is finalized at this point.

- Jeremy Dutcher event to be held on March 16th 2020 from 7:30p.m. – 9:00p.m. At Paul Davenport Theatre Talbot College. Bimadoshka Pucan will be hosting a talk with Dutcher around the use of wax cylinders.
- National Gathering of Indigenous Health Graduate Students hosted by the Indigenous Mentorship Network (IMN) with Dr. Chantelle Richmond. This conference is open to all graduate students across the country. Flyer was distributed, agenda is updated on Event Brite. Peter Simpson offered assistance to reach out to graduate students.

IPEC feedback for CONGRESS 2020

- Autumn Peltier as a guest speaker.
- Consult with Indigenous Writers Circle as an informal group.
- Janet Rogers as a guest speaker – well received at previous Western event.
- Concern around Indigenous Writers Circle contracting guests to speak as the honorarium process is arduous. An independent student driven group who are unattached to an institutional unit, if attached, this could help the payment processes for their guests easier.

5. Indigenous Student Centre Update

Amanda Myers presented.

- Melissa Schnarr-Rice hired as Indigenous Tutor Coordinator. Her responsibility is to support Saunders, Beal and Clarke Road high school student's need. This Indigenous Academic Tutor program is a partnership with TVDSB and involves hiring several Indigenous student to work in high school up to 10 hours per week.
- Indigenous Student Graduation is booked for April 3, 2020 1:30p.m. to 4:00p.m. At St. James Auditorium, Brescia University College for Indigenous students, graduate and undergraduate

All IPEC members are invited to attend.

- The event celebrates all Indigenous students graduating from all Faculties and Affiliates. ISC will formally invite Affiliate leaders.
- Indigenous students are invited to attend both Indigenous Student Graduation and Western Convocation.
- ISC will be posting the Program Coordinator position for Ashley Kewayosh maternity leave.
- ISC will be posting for the Mini-university Coordinator summer role.
- ISC will be hosting the annual Indigenous Track and Field Day on February 19 2020. Joy Spear Chief is the lead organizer. Students from local communities includes grade 6-8.
- Indigenous Awareness Week (IAW) is scheduled for, January 20 to 28 2020. The weeklong event includes an Indigenous Health Conference. Event bright page registration. Riley Kennedy (Senator) offered information on agenda of Indigenous Health Conference. Two Key Notes. Guy Williams offered videographer to assist.

- ISC is hosting its Open House on January 23, 2020 from 11 – 1pm.

6. Indigenous Studies – Faculty of Social Science Updates

Janice Forsyth presented.

- Indigenous Studies is supporting Indigenous Student Association with Health conference via donation to USC through the levy fund.
- IndStu is undergoing another 2-year curriculum review process. Report to be filed by 2020-21.
- IndStu is undergoing 2 separate hiring processes. One internal process and the Cluster Hire process

7. Indigenous Education, Faculty of Education Update

Brent Debassige presented.

- The Faculty of Education shortlisted three candidates as part of the Indigenous Cluster Hire process. One candidate was offered and accepted the position, Renee Bedard will begin July 1, 2020.
- The Faculty is hiring an Indigenous Education Coordinator regular full time position. This posting is now closed after a two-week posting period. This position will provide immense support for the development of leadership structure in education.
- Indigenous leadership structure is in development but will be adding new faculty members.

8. Guidelines for Working with Indigenous Communities – draft 2

Candace Brunette-Debassige presented. Please see attachment

- Purpose of the guideline is to create consistency across campus when working with Indigenous communities. .
- Draft 1 was presented at the September meeting.
- Since this time, some changes have been made to the document including:
 - An adjustment of the tone.
 - Suggestion to remove “on campus” under Food heading.
 - Suggestion to list ISC or Indigenous Initiatives as a resource to support staff when accessing and offering tobacco.
- All documents will be public at new portal.

9. Protocol for Indigenous Student Data on Campus – draft 1

Candace Brunette-Debassige presented. Please see attachment

- Purpose to govern the ways that Indigenous student data is handled at the university.

- Candace presented a preliminary draft of a guideline for Western that outlines ethical, transparency and community engagement processes.
- This document is a protocol rather than a policy.
- Suggestion that there needs to be clarification of the collection process currently in place.
- Questions on who can request data and how the new Office can support Faculties and units (e.g. can Indigenous Studies access aggregate data).
- There is a possibility to use data to outreach to alumni.
- IPEC members want to see aggregate data and breakdown per Faculty and Affiliate.

12. Business arising from Previous Meeting & Outstanding Action Items

- IPEC Co-Chairs sent a letter to the Provost outlining the importance of Indigenous cultural competency training among all new senior leadership in particular the new Dean of Social Science.
- Update that an Acting Dean of Social Science has been appointed. Her name is Joan Finegan. She has been invited to future attend IPEC meetings.
- Search process underway for Dean of Education.
- IPEC member PD options currently being explored.
- SGPS invited IPEC members to attend Own Your Future program of Professional Development for PhD students. Peter Simpson will send more details to Candace to circulate to the list serve.
- ISA powwow funding proposal check in. Due to a lack of funding Indigenous Student Association requested more funding from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives budget from 4000 to 10,000. Additional \$6000 not approved yet. No news to report. Student levy does not fund the powwow.

17. Traditional Closing/Adjournment

- Closing words and adjournment

Next IPEC meeting

- Friday March 20, 2020 9:00AM to 12:30PM
- Additionally, there will be an opportunity to engage the Executive Search for the position of VP/AVP of Indigenous Initiatives. This will extend the meeting to 1:30p.m.